



Trench Collapse

Checklist for First Responders

Objectives: Assess scene, Control hazards, Rescue victim(s), Evacuate victims from scene.

☐ **[Announce IOSR]**

☐ Establish Command

☐ Assess the scene

☐ Establish staging area (min 250' away)

☐ **[Announce SUR]**

☐ What happened?

☐ What is the access?

☐ Is it a trench? Deeper than it is wide?
More than 5 feet deep?

☐ Number of victims?

☐ Condition of the victim(s)

☐ How are they trapped, stuck?

☐ What shape of trench is it?

☐ **Initial Actions**

☐ Isolate and deny entry

☐ Determine best/safest access

☐ Control hazards

☐ Lock-Out/Tag-Out

☐ Protect patient when possible

☐ Mark hot/warm/cold zones

☐ Approach trench cautiously from ends to conduct recon and/or to make contact with victim(s).

☐ Is there a protective system (shoring box or shores) currently in place that has not been compromised?

☐ If the victim is trapped, pinned or unable to self-rescue in an unprotected trench:

☐ **Immediate Stop: *Further actions require Technical Rescue Team***

☐ Signs of imminent secondary collapse:

☐ Large cracks

☐ Visual movement, running or loose soil

☐ Leaning walls or corners

General Reminders

- Calm and reassure victims
- Support self-rescue.

Common Trench Shapes

“L”, “T”, “I”